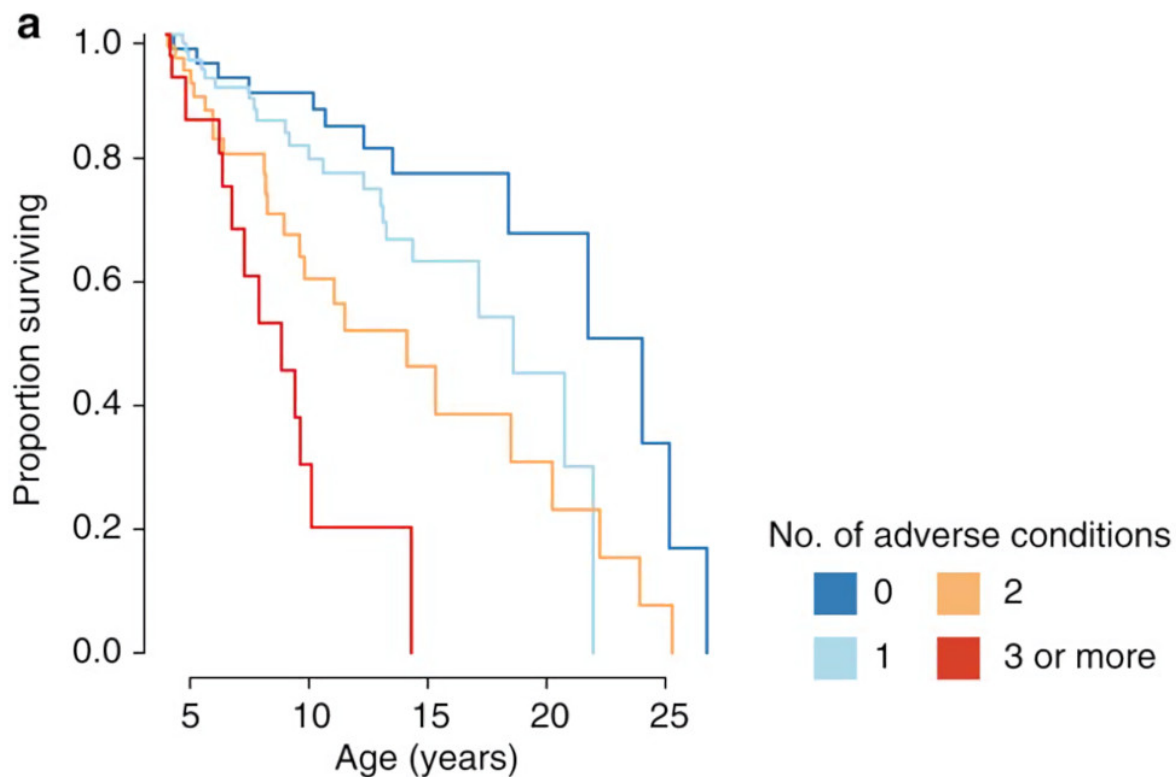




Baboon Longevity Under Adversity



Caption: Survival curves for 196 adult female baboons from a population in Kenya. The baboons were grouped according to the number of adverse conditions that they had experienced early in life.

OBSERVATIONS, NOTES & QUESTIONS

BACKGROUND INFORMATION	BIG IDEAS, NOTES & QUESTIONS
<p>Studies have shown that people who experience major challenges such as poverty, war, famine, abuse, or disasters as children are more likely to suffer from health issues including heart disease, schizophrenia, and type II diabetes as adults. One hypothesis suggests that experiencing more of these adverse conditions early in life increases one's risk for later health issues and ultimately death. Although this hypothesis is difficult to evaluate in humans due to lack of data, scientists have studied similar conditions in other species.</p> <p>In this study, scientists analyzed data from a baboon population in Kenya. These data were collected almost daily from 1983 to 2013 and contained detailed information about each of the 196 adult females in the population. The scientists compared how long each female lived with the number of adverse conditions that female had experienced early in life. The study considered six types of adverse conditions: drought, overcrowding, having a low-ranking mother, having a mother with fewer social connections, the death of a mother, and a competing younger sibling.</p>	